

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND
TRANSPORTATION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

July 10, 2009

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Byron Dorgan
Chairman
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety and Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Chairman Dorgan,

As you know, the Inspector General for the Department of Transportation has identified numerous gaps in the effectiveness of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) oversight of foreign repair stations and foreign repair station security, even as more air carriers are performing maintenance overseas. I recently reintroduced the SAFE AIR Act, designed to increase oversight of the safety and security of the maintenance work performed on commercial airlines. Among other things, the bill would require:

- that maintenance work is done under the direct supervision of certificated repair stations or carriers
- that work is done in compliance with FAA drug and alcohol rules
- that the FAA increase certification fees for foreign repair stations to fully cover the cost of safety inspections
- that the Inspector General to perform increased oversight; and
- that the FAA consider compliance with TSA security regulations when certifying repair stations

I ask that you include my bill in the FAA reauthorization. The SAFE AIR Act would address serious safety and security concerns, and it has enjoyed the support of the Transportation Trades Department (AFL-CIO), the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Consumers Union, and the Business Travel Alliance. Similar language was included in the FAA reauthorization bill passed by the House of Representatives. Further, the Committee has received testimony on this issue on multiple occasions including at a 2007 hearing which I chaired. This issue has been broadly reviewed and there is a compelling record for action by the Committee.

I look forward to working with you on the Aviation Subcommittee to make vital reforms and investments in our aviation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" starting with a large loop and the last name "McCaskill" following in a similar style.

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator